



# William Lilly's Judgements of Famous Nativities

By William Lilly

~ Transcribed and annotated by Peter Stockinger and Sue Ward ~





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# **William Lilly's Judgements of Famous Nativities**

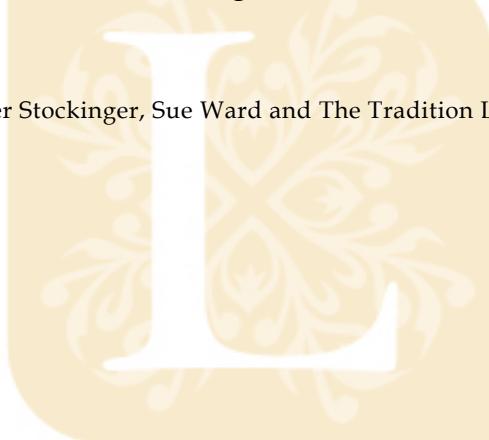
Extracted from a number of his published works.

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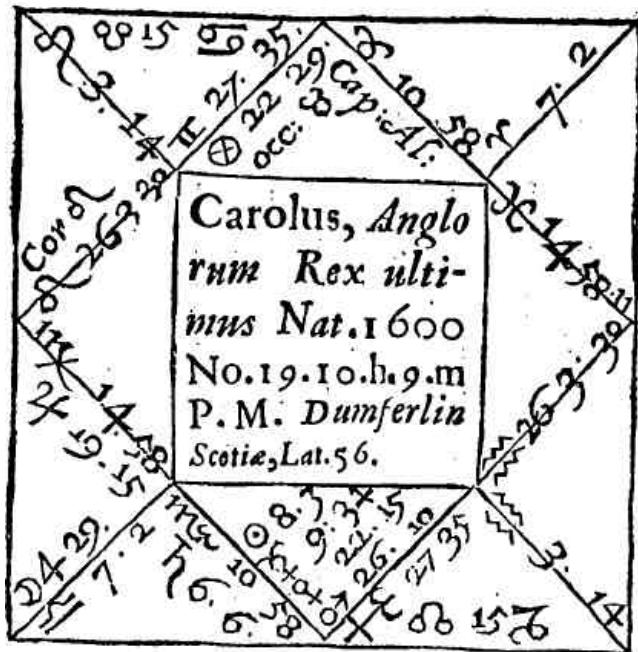
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## Nativity of King Charles I

Extracted from *Merlinus Anglicus* by William Lilly, London 1652.



I have been desired by many learned men to impart unto the world the *Nativity* of this late unhappy *King*; who from the height of all worldly felicity, became most miserable. I spare my judgement on his *Scheme*, professing only thus much, That all along in his destruction and death, *Providence* rather acted by *Miracle* than *Nature*. True it is, I did much advantage my Annuall Judgements during the heat of *War* and successe thereof, by my serious consideration of his *Geniture*; but the very true quality of his Death, *viz. Beheading*, I could not finde out; that was the onely immediate finger of God, and the generall influence of the Stars upon *England*, &c.

## The Election of the King of Poland

Extracted from *Merlinus Anglicus* by William Lilly, London 1670.

### TO THE READER.

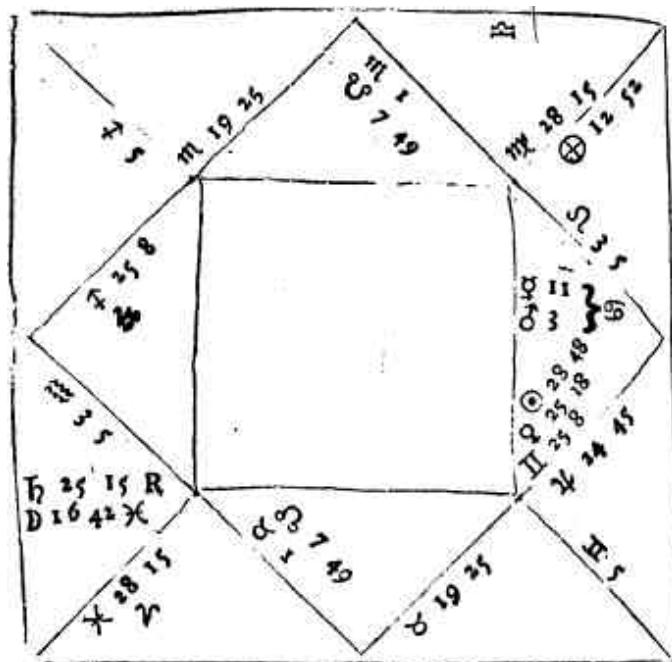
*As for our Astrological judgment upon the present King of Poland his Election, it is modest, and grounded as far as we could have any light or direction from the Rules of the Ancient Arabians, who (nevertheless) in this kind of Judicature have committed upon posterity very slender considerations, but no Method.*

*Elections of Kings are not in our times frequent, most Kings of Europe succeeding by Inheritance: Posterity, if studious in what we have delivered, may determine better of such like Elections.*

*Of the length of his Raign, we have not mentioned anything, lest we might give offence, but it's probable in his time of Government may be of many years continuance.*

*When we seriously consider the voluntary resignation of the late Heroick Queen of Sweden, her Crown and Dignities, and the like willing action of the late King of Poland; the Confinement of the present King of Portugal, we can not but conjecture there remains somewhat behind as not yet Acted; many more than ordinary vicissitudes in this present Macrocosm, of which, these not frequent Courses, the dreadful late Comets, and Prodigies are only preparatives for greater concerns yet behind, and within few years may be expected and produced unto Maturity.*

*Observations upon Prince Michael Coribut Wisniewiesky his being nominated and elected King of Poland, ♀, 19 June stilo novo, 1669. 8h PM. Warsovia Poloniæ. Latitude, 52.20'*



Providence seems to have contributed much unto the *Polonian Nobles* in this their late Election of a King, that it should be then, and as it were at that time concluded, when a Kingly sign of the Zodiack ascended in their Horizon, *viz.* ♂ and that sign only, which hath ever been accounted most proper in such a weighty consideration; for of those three signs attributed to the fiery Trigon, *Estq; in ista triplicitate fortius signum Sagittarius. Goclenius:* In that triplicity, *viz.* of the fiery Trigon, the Sagittary is the most strong sign, and most appropriated unto the matter then under consideration. In our present figure ♐ is Lord thereof, and in almost partil conjunction with ♀, both Planets concurring in Latitude, in their motion both very swift: In the preventional Full Moon ♐ was Lord thereof, and then in Conjunction with the Sun, at the same time also ♂ and ♀ were in σ: which gives us occasion to judge, that then, *viz.* the day of the Full ♀ preceding, there might be some secret intentions and consultations

amongst the Nobles about his Election, though the Dignity or Kingship it self they afterwards with much alacrity conferred on him at time of his Nomination. We observe that the day of his Election,  $\text{\texttt{h}}$  and  $\text{\texttt{Q}}$  were in partil Trine; and two days after  $\text{\texttt{h}}$  and  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  in  $\Delta$ . *Planetæ superiores quia plurimum resistunt, non facilè recipiunt infortunium.* The two superior Planets because they resist much, and are slow in their motions, seldom receive any misfortune from inferiour Planets: this may seem an happy Omen for the present King: And whereas  $\text{\texttt{h}}$  is partly Lord of the Ascendant, and hath great Dominion therein, *viz.* in this Election, and is now Retrograde, which by some may be judged something unfortunate, we answer it thus, *Mitigantur infortunia  $\text{\texttt{h}}$  &  $\text{\texttt{S}}$ , si eorum loca à Jove bene disposito, fausto aspectu protegantur.* The male influences of  $\text{\texttt{h}}$  and  $\text{\texttt{S}}$  are restrained or much qualified if the places where either of them are, be protected by  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  with his benevolent Aspect,  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  himself being not unfortunate: we herein only mention the malice of  $\text{\texttt{h}}$  or what impediment he may signifie by his Retrogradation, he suffering by no other misfortune; & we affirm that the 25. Degree of  $\text{\texttt{M}}$  is irradiated by the almost partil  $\Delta$  of  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  from the 24. 45' of  $\text{\texttt{II}}$ , and the Degree ascending by  $\text{\texttt{h}}$  himself. We may without fallacy in Art, conclude the perfect time of his Nomination unto the Throne to be Diurnal, but the Proclamation of his Election more properly Nocturnal, being one hour after, and so his Conduction into the Castle at 10 P.M. is totally Nocturnal.

It was much then, and may be more hereafter for his Majesties happiness, that the Sun was above the Earth, he being a Planet Diurnal, Angular and in no male Aspect, and most properly and naturally signifying Rule, Authority, Power and Dominion, and Regality: an Argument of his greater glory in time to come; for all Actions signified from the Sun, are said or held to be magnificent and stately, full of Majesty and Renown. However if the true t[i]me of his Nomination should be some minutes later than

what hath been transmitted unto us, or some little time after ☽ set; the Learned generally then do say, *Si dignitas habetur de nocte, tum si Luna ab infortuniis est munda, & in loco salvo, corpus servat incolumē.* If Dignity or an Election be had or made for Dominion or Rule in the night, if at that time the Moon be free from the Infortunes (as here) and in a safe place of Heaven, the person then of the Elected shall be secure or free from danger. Some perhaps may understand by (*Corpus incolumē*) the body or convention of the Electors shall be safe: but we wave the latter reading, for *Luminaria vicem Regis & Magistratus gerunt, & ex æquo omnia dispensant, viz.* The two Lights, the Sun by day, and the Moon by night, represent or set forth the manner or course of the King and his Government, and dispense all things with Equity or Justice.

*Et hora qua intrat dignitatem, significat quod futurum est inter eum & populum subjectum:* The hour in which he enters upon his dignity will declare what shall happen betwixt him and the people subject unto him, or his Rule: His nomination was in the hour of ♂, one reason certainly, that afterwards there was some small disputes or differences, partly upon the Souldiers account, partly from some others rashness or unadvisedness, who perished in their folly, - the *Gazet* mentions two killed.

This Election was made under the Influence of a late ♂ of the two superior Planets ♀ and ♁ in ♈ in 1663 it being their second Conjunction therein, viz in that sign since their Sabbatical return into the fiery Trigon, which began, 1603. and it is said - by learned Authors, *Conjunctiones in signis igneis, Imperiorum, & Monarchiarum constitutiones propter Solem & Jovem in illis dominantes, faciunt, sterilitatem quoq; magnam, & eversionem Monarchiarum constitutarum sub trigono aero, vel translationem de parte una in aliam.* The Conjunction of ♀ and ♁ celebrated in fiery signs, doth manifest new Empires & Monarchies, or the constitutions thereof, because of the great fortitude both the *Sun* and *Jupiter* have in those fiery Signs;

they also therein do fore-shew great Barrenness, and the Subversion of those Empires or Governments which had their first beginning or original Being in the Aiery Triplicity, or the removal of that or those Monarchies from one place unto another. We do probably judge the Election of this present King to be happily and fortunately constituted, and there are strong Arguments to incline us to judge of this Kings happy continuance in his Regality and Throne; for notwithstanding ♄ is not essentially dignified, yet considering his nearness unto the body of *Venus*, and the application of ☽, the supremest of all the Planets, unto the Δ of ♄, an Aspect which rarely happens, we hope in his Government he shall make good and verifie this excellent Aphorism: *Raro applicatur ☽ alteri Planetæ, quare propter hoc, significat Magnos Principes & stabiles Monarchas: Saturnus* rarely or very seldom applies unto any Planet, wherefore when he doth so (as in this Election he did) he signifies great Kings or Princes, and durable Monarchs. And fith his Majesty enters upon his Government under this Trigon, which is, Christianorum Trigonus, we hope he may prove a great support and strong bulwark unto Christendom, against the Turk and all other Enemies unto Religion: we say farther, *Bonæ electiones ad recipiendum Coronas, & regna; & magna dominia sunt, si sit Luna clara & salva &c.* Good Elections for receiving Crowns, Kingdoms and large Dominions are best made, when the Moon is not darkned in her light, or unfortunate by any Aspect unto the infortunes, but shall be in one of the houses of ♄ or ♀; she is now in the house of ♄, the reason hereof is *Luna significat omnem populum*, the generality of People or the Electors are signified by the Moon, and when their Significator is unfortunate, their Prince can not be happy.

If the natural conditions or inclinations of this King be Astrologically required, or be deducible from our present position, they seem represented from ♄ ☽ ♀ ☽ and ☽: as ♄ is partly Lord of the

Ascendant, *Erit rectus, & rectorum morum, rectorum judiciorum, amator boni & legis, & victoriosus, & habebit multos amicos*, viz. He shall be an upright King, of good behaviour, just in his Judgments, a lover of good things and of the Law, he shall be victorious over his Enemies, and acquire many Friends: for  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  *habet temperamentum supremum, & maximè beneficus est*:  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  of himself signifieth the best and supreamest temperament, and is the most beneficial Planet; we say therefore, if  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  simply of himself signifie so much, then certainly more sure Arguments will follow, he *viz.*  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  being in perfect  $\Delta$  of  $\text{\texttt{H}}$ , *Præest \text{\texttt{H}} contemplationi & memoriæ*: this may further denote, that he will be a person of great gravity, prudence, and moderation, and indued with all Princely qualities of sober and profound judgment in weighty Consultations; and as  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  is with and near  $\text{\texttt{Q}}$ , it imports or manifesteth great affability, and a singular good natured King: he will be full of courtesie, grateful to his Friends, of a pleasant deportment unto all his Subjects, desiring to please all, cheerful and merciful, something he partakes of the nature of the  $\text{\texttt{O}}$ , *viz.* a Noble Princely heart, bountiful, desirous of fame and glory, and in all probability according unto our Scheme, will prove a great instrement to advance the publick Interest of his own Nation, and settle the uncertain condition of that Kingdom: as  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  after his transiting some few degrees in the sign  $\text{\texttt{II}}$  doth then enter the sign  $\text{\texttt{S}}$  wherein he is exalted, so it may be well hoped, that though his first beginning to rule may be incumbred with many difficulties, partly by  $\text{\texttt{J}}$  his being in his detriment and also (*sub radiis*) yet afterwards there is no cause to doubt but that in time he shall sway the Scepter of *Poland* with much contentment of his Subjects, and great renown to himself, and that by sound and good Counsel, he will bring that people into a quiet condition, or unto such a security as can or may be expected, considering the situation of *Poland*, and its many present disturbances at home, and Enemies round about it, *viz.* the wandering

*Tartar, unruly Cossacks, the wary Turks, and dull Muscovite, from all which People or Nations he can have no security, without a long Sword of his own, ever and upon all occasions ready to be drawn against their Treacherous Invasions; nor will there be more need of Providence at any time hereafter than at this present, and for three whole years yet to come.*

As the ☽ and ♀ are near ♄, *Auxiliatores habebit multos - altam & magnam famam, longè nominabitur, magnum dominium & clarum regnum habebit;* he will have many Assistants and sure Allies, in all his occasions and warfares, high and great estimation, he shall be spoken of far and near, he shall attain unto great Dominion, and make *Poland* a famous Kingdom; which God grant, because, *Stellæ agunt, sed non cogunt.*

It is true, as ♄ ♀ ☽ and ♃ are in double bodied signs, so, *permutationem & revolutionem in causis & factis suis faciunt:* as ♄ ♀ ☽ and ♃ are in double bodied Signs, he shall find at some times and in some years, strange mutations in his Affairs, sudden and unexpected revolutions in his Government and main Designs or Affairs, now tending unto great Prosperity; not long after his Coun[?] is checked by strange revolutions of men in Authority or by Councils contrary unto his own principles both in judgment and wisdom. But, because ♀ is Lady of the 4. House and ☽ is therein posited, *Polonia* being subject unto the sign ♀, we say, those various or mutable changes, contingencies, extravagant excursions of Enemies, or sometimes confused Counsels of his own Subjects, which at some times during his Reign over the *Polonians*, may or might give him trouble or molest his spirit; these we say are very likely generally to determine for his Honour, and security of the Nation, and the rather for that ♄ ♀ ♃ are all in their motion swift, which gives us occasion to judge, that by his wisdom and good conduct, all emergent, or occasional, or adventitious controversies will be but of short continuance; for, *Velocitas*

*motus magnam habet vim in inferioribus Planetis, multum in ♀, plurimum in Luna:* the sense of which Aphorism applied to our discourse, runs thus, that a speedy revolution, or quick and sudden Council will best determine any emergent Affair he shall enter upon, whether tending unto War or Peace, Leagues, Contracts, Alliance, &c.

Because ☽ ♀ ♄ are all Angular in the 7. house; *significat fortunam, per Conventiones, viz.* he is promised good assistance in his most weighty Affairs, by and from the great Conventions or Assemblies of that Nation, or by their means from his Subjects in general. We must be wary in our Judgment, and give answer unto what may be objected in opposition to what has preceded; and true it is, it may rationally be urged, that ♂ Lord of the 10. House, hath no Aspect unto ♄ ♀ ☽ or ℌ, and also that ♂ is in opposition to the Ascendant, as also that ☽ is posited in the 10. house, which house, *Ejusq; Dominus significat actiones; quibus occupabitur in servitio Reipublicæ, viz.* the 10. house and Lord thereof do signify this Kings Actions, and those wherein he shall be engaged in for the safety and service of that Common wealth or People, *viz.* cf. *Poland.*

Some also may urge that ☽ is in the 8. house, the dispositor whereof is ♀ in the house of publick enemies, in no Aspect either unto ♄ or ℌ, the most material signifiers of this present King in our Figure: unto which we answer that the body of the Election being strongly fortified with the strongest Aspects of the most superior Planets, and those benevolent, considering also the near position of ☽ and ♀ both unto ♄ and ℌ: unto ℌ by ♂, unto ℌ by Δ Aspect; these happy Positions and Configurations in our judgment do seem to wholly annihilate or totally diminish whatever adverse or contiguous chance or casualty may be derived, or proceed from the former male posture, either of ☽ in the 10 house, or ♂ and ♀ in the 7<sup>th</sup>. Yet still we do say there will not want such amongst his own people,

as will endeavour to detract from his Fame and Renown, be his actions never so honourable, or never so well and candidly intended for that Nation; nay, he will encounter with some of such unbridled malice, that they will endeavour *Deponere eum ab officio*; if possible depose him from Rule and Government; for ♀ in the 10<sup>th</sup> still manifests much Labour, Art, and Industry, much strugling and good advice, to preserve him secure in his Government: however in the main, we say all the malice, and mischief, which at present is or hereafter may be intended against this Serene Monarch, will be frustrated & contradicted by Providence, which hath ordered him such Friends as will (*longe ante*) give him caution of all Machinations either in Council or Action intended against him and his Government; which is apparently manifested by the near ♂ of ♈ and ♀ and other very amiable Aspects, for that happy Conjunction signifieth, *Erit dilectus à viris magnis & nobilibus & ab his fortunam bonam habebit, viz.* He shall be beloved of the Grandees and Nobles of the Nation, and by their loves and friendship have great Fortune, that is, plentiful assistance in his most difficult Affairs during his whole life and Government. As unto ♂ and ♀ their being in ☽ in ♀ to the Ascendant, and without any Aspect either unto ♈ or ♀ ☽, it doth indubitably his honourable Actions will be subject unto the censure and murmurings, or repinings of the Souldiery, and other hot violent spirited Persons, and that very frequently (notwithstanding that small Reception of ♈ and ♀) but, if we consider the cause that invites them unto this quarrelling, or the reason, why: *Commixtio ♂ & Mercurii inclinat ad latrocinia*: The Souldiery will be given to Robbery and Plunder, yea, Mutinies; and Justice being done or executed upon such like offenders for their defaults, the male-contented or equally guilty Souldier will traduce their King.

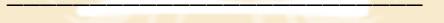
The dispositrix of these Male-contents is the Moon in the second house, and ♀ is Lord of ☽; these import the Souldiers want of pay (or aliquid

tale) in English, the Kings want of Money, may be some occasion of these discontents or unruly pranks, which indeed our English Gazets in some measure do relate. But because the wealth promised from our Figure is derived from the Signification of two Planets, *viz.* ♀ and ♁, both having much prerogative in the second house, we may confidently produce this maxim in Astrology, *viz.* *Et si duo diversa signa constituunt dominium, substantia ejus erit multiplex.* When two divers signs (as here ♎ and ♈) do constitute dominion, the substance, or fortune, or riches of that person shall be manifold or very great, and raised or accumulated by divers and sundry ways: but because his fortune or wealth will principally accrue from the Configuration of the two superiour Planets; the judgment will be certain, but the manner how, and means by which his treasure will be raised, will be by procrastination and many delays, or something long e're a convenient method will be found out by the Nobles. Yet we further observe ☽ is in the 8<sup>th</sup> house, *viz.* the house of Substance, of great Councils or Conventions, and that the ♃ in the second is near unto a Δ of ♀: from hence we judge, the great Council of that Nation, after some opposition or many debates or disputes, will raise great sums of money to supply the necessities of the craving Souldier; wherein we are much confirmed by ♃ her separation from Aspect of ♀ unto a □ of ♁ in signs of short ascensions.

This Serene King his greatest defect or want of Treasure seems to be now in his Infancy of Government: *Deus dabit his quoq; finem* - But afterwards its most probable, it will be at that time or in those years, when ♀ shall transit the 13. 14. 15. 16. of the sign ♈ by his Retrograde motion, which will be in *September* 1671. but worst of all in *October* and some months following, because in *October*, 1671 ♀ and ♁, he then in his detriment meets with an unhappy opposition of ♀ in 13. 11. ♈. 6 then in 13. 11. ♉, this will be 25. of *October*, *stilo veteri*; and 4 of *November*, *stilo novo*, 1671. It

may be rationally conjectured, his Majesty will have great friendship and a strict correspondency with those Kings, Princes, or Potentates, who inhabit the Western parts of *Europe*, or will border upon his Kingdom Westward; and these Princes seem to have an high esteem on his Majesty.

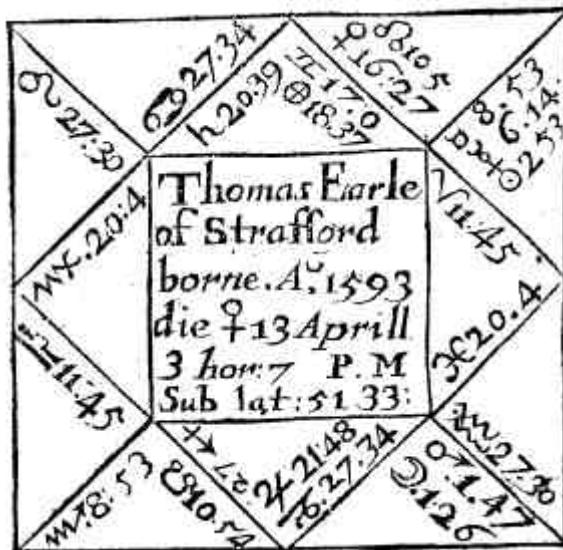
☿ and ♀, *Amicorum vices referunt, idcirco dicuntur benefici;* these two Planets represent the courses of his friends or friendship, and are therefore called benefical: he may expect much Enmity, many Bickerings, Wars and Conflicts from those People, Nations or Kingdoms, which lye Northward, but especially North-east or full East; against all which we hope he will be victorious and prevalent with his Armies, Providence seeming so to have ordered it. We will wander no further in this discourse, or be curious of the length of his Government; we only say, the Heavens seem propitious unto *Poland*, in that the time of their Election is like to prove so fortunate, and as advantageous unto his present Majesty as could be, the day and time of his Election considered.



## Thomas, Earl of Strafford

Extracted from *A Collection of Ancient and Moderne Prophesies*

by William Lilly, London 1645.



I must now speak to the sons of Art, and render Astrological reasons for the rise and fall of this strong, (but unhappy) cedar.

The signes wherein the ♃ and ♀ are posited, the aspects of the Planets to the ☽, and the Angles, and amongst themselves, do herein much conduce for perfect discovery of the inclination, wit, and judgement of the native, &c.

♀, ♂, ☽, ☽ in fixed signes, and in aspect to conjunction each with the other, according to that in Ptol. Lib. 3. fol. 181. *Stabilem, intelligentem tenacem simultatum, pertinaciter instantem, honoris cupidum, asperum, inflexibilem reddunt:* The significators of the wit and fancy in fixed signes, incline the Native to be firm and stable in his results, intelligent, full of policy, stubbornly resolute, greedy of honour, of sharp conception, and implacable.

In that Mars is far more strong then Mercury or the Moon, being in □ aspect with the one, and conjunction with the other: the violence of his will did many times oversway his judgement; for, when those two Planets ♀ and ♂ *vincuntur à contraria conditione, sunt præcipites, habent irritos impetus, & facilè incurruunt in offendionem*: The power of Mars being greater then of the ♂ or ♀, this (otherwise admirable man) his inclination prompted him to such irregular and headstrong enterprises, as he easily ran into displeasure for them. And who so will read Ptol. Lib. 3. fol. 194. what the familiarity of Mars with Mercury may incline unto, he tells you; *Facit callidos in excogitandis stratagematis, violentos, præmetientes pericula, celeriter invenientes consilia, inimicis nocentes, amicis benefacientes*: It makes subtil men in devising stratagems, violent, foreseeing or well weighing dangers, able on the sudden to give councell, mischievous to their enemies, and doing curtesies for friends.

For the judgement, wit, and understanding of this Gentleman, hear this one generall rule exactly, as we all know, verified in him; ♀ and ♂ fese mutuo □ *radio aspicientes etiam ingenium acutum & præstans largiuntur, plerumque vero turbidem & in actionibus ferè omnibus vehemens, &c.*

♀ and the ♂ in □ aspect, produceth a sharp and admirable understanding, but for the most part violent and turbulent in all his actions; to adde to this his too too great capacity, he had ♂ with the ♂, and ♀ neer the ☽, both in fixed signes imboldening his spirits, and adding stiffe confidence to his conceptions: and it could be no little help unto him, that he had the ♂ and ☽ in reception, as also ♀ and ☽, &c.

It may be enquired, from what grounds or Aphorisms in Astrology, this Gentleman should attain to so great advancement?

From the Luminaries, as they are posited and in aspect each to other, he could expect no advancement or honour, without strugling envie and much repining. Indeed I remember about 1625 or 1626 whilst he took part with the Subject against Prerogative oppressions, he was much esteemed of the people, and hated at Court: But about 1627 being poisoned with the Presidentship of the North, he was never after beloved of the people, nor much at Court, &c. This by the way.

The heavens from his birth promise preferment; for ♀ culminates, and ♀ Lord of the tenth and she are in reception by house, the strongest that may be, his part of fortune posited in the regall house, with fixed stars of the nature of Mars and ♀, and its dispositors in signo sixo. We have reception betwixt Saturn and Jupiter, (though they are in opposition) both beholding the ascendant, ♂ with a \* sinister, ♀ with a Δ dexter: He hath ♀ Lady of his substance most strongly elevated in the tenth; an argument of great riches from regall hand, or great offices. And if you enquire by what means? Venus being significatrix of honour, as here, *Cum favore, donis, honoribus, auget animi magnificentiam.* Mercury Lord of his honour, *Prudentia acquirit dignitatem.* When Venus signifies preferment, or honour, its by favour, gift, &c. When Mercury, its by prudence and wisedom, and the favour of his Prince, he obtained his height of preferment. I now come to shew reasons in Astrology concerning his death, and its manner; why it was not naturall, but violent.

*Saturnus in medio Cœli semper objicit hominem periculis.* Saturn in the Mid Heaven always involves a man in dangers. Orig. fol. 717.

*Infortuna Soli vel Lunæ infortunatae juncta in eodem gradu, nato etiam si Rex fuerit, magna inconvenientia minatur.* Card. Lib. 2. Apho. 32.

An infortune joyn'd to the Sun, or Moon infortunate in the same degree, threatens great inconveniences, yea though he were a King. *Luna in □ ⊖ & ♄ in opposito ™ significat ingentia pericula, & inimicos.* Card. Gen.73. The ☽ in □ to the ⊖, and ♄ in opposition to ™, denotes extream perils, and strong enemies.

*Cui Luna & ♄ valde infortunati fuerint, is etiam si reliqua ad libitum aptentur, erit natus infælicissimus.* In whose Nativity the ☽ and ♄ are infortunate, though for many years things go prosperously with him, he shall at last be most miserable. These Aphorisms are all exactly verified in this Nativity.

But now for his violent death; *Mars autem cum Solem infaustum, aut Lunam quadrato aspectu aut opposito adspicit, in signis humanis, significat neces in seditionibus civilibus, aut interficiendos ab hostibus:* Ptol. Lib. 4. fol. 239. In a nativity, when Mars beholds the ⊖ or ☽ ill placed, or infortunate, in humane signes, it doth import the Native to come to his end by civill broiles, or to be slain by his enemies: But if we proceed, Mars signifies, such shall lose their heads, or be deprived of some of their members. Not to strain or inforce a judgement beyond Art, we will examine our Nativity: Here is ⊖ the temporall light in the eighth, and afflicted by the □ of ♂, Lord of the eighth; and Anareta in a human and violent signe: Here is ♀, Lord of the ascendant *sub radiis*, ⊖ in □ to ♂ the sole Interfector: here's ⊖ and ☽ in □, and the ☽ wholly infortunate and oppressed by her partill ♂ with ♂. *Ambo luminaria ab unico tantum malefico impedita, altero maleficorum læso, vel in signo violento versante, ac dominium sibi in octava domo vindicante, violentam mortem denuntiat.* Both the lights oppressed but of one infortunate Planet; the other malevolent either being in a violent signe, or infortunate, and having any dominion in the eighth, argue a violent death. I will conclude onely with this Aphorism, *Mars Soli vel Lunæ configuratus, illustri mortis genere periturum natum denuntiat, ob iram Principis, aut Regis, aut Judicio Magistratus.*

When Mars is in configuration, either with the Sun or Moon; he that is then born, perishes by some famous kinde of death, or else by the command of his Prince in displeasure, or by judgement of Magistracy or Authority. No death is more eminent then to die on the Scaffold; so did he: And that he died by order of Magistracy, its evident; for he was adjudged to his death by the House of Peers, the highest Magistracy of England.

Mars, Lord of the eighth in a human signe, for the manner of his death, shews *mortem ab homine per arma, &c.* All men know he was decapitated (May 1641) by the publike Officer, &c.

He was imprisoned when the *Medium Cæli* came to the opposition of the ♃ without latitude; and beheaded when the Mid-heaven came to opposition of the ♃ with Latitude, and to the opposite beams of Mars; when he had lived 48 yeers compleat, and one moneth.

*Medium Cæli ad ♂ ♃: Populi odia, dignitatum & officiorum jacturam:* Upon this direction the Parliament imprisoned him, (Decem. 1640) and deprived him of his Offices, &c.

*Medium Cæli ad ♂ ♂: multa mala denuntiat, quæ tam à nato quam ab aliis in natum proveniant: unde & publica mors metuenda.*

The Mid-heaven to an opposition of Mars, threatens many evils, as well to the native by his own defect, as also from others; whereupon, its best he fear that a publike death befall him not.

Thus have I communicated to posterity this Noble mans Nativity; and that speech by him intended to have been delivered at his death, then which I never in my life perused a more significant one: But he is dead, and may be numbered amongst the greatest wits this Kingdom ever bred, and as a Nobleman amongst the most unfortunate.

He had three Wives; the first, the Earl of Cumberlands daughter; his second, the Earl of Clare's; his third surviving, was a Knights daughter: He was President of the North, Lord Deputy of Ireland, &c. and was capable of any dignity his Prince or Countrey could afford him.

**The Speech of THOMAS Earl of Strafford, intended to be spoken on the Scaffold the day he was beheaded (May 12. 1641.); but being interrupted, he delivered it to his Brother Sir George Wentworth; from whose Originall Copy under the Earls own hand, this is word for word transcribed.**

People of my native Countrey, (I wish my own, or your Charity had made me fit to call you Friends.)

It should appear by your concourse and gazing aspects, that I am now the onely prodigious Meteor, towards which you direct your wondering eyes. Meteors are the infallible Antecedents of tragical events, and do commonly level their malevolent operation upon some remarkable person. At this present time, I am become my own prodigy, and the crossed influence will appear in my (too sudden) execution: And this fear is only left me, The consequence will produce a greater effusion then mine. I would to God, my bloud would cure your sad hearts of all their grievances, (though every drop thereof were a soul on which a life depended) I should render it with as much alacrity, as some (nay, the most) of you are come to triumph in my fatall expiration.

In regard I have been by you (my native Countrey, whose wisedom and justice, in respect of the generality of it, is no way questionable) voted to this untimely end, I have not one syllable to say in justification of my self, or those actions for which I suffer: onely, in excuse of both, give me leave to say, My

too much zeal to do my Mr. Service, made me abuse his regall authority; and howsoever I have been one most unfortunate, yet, at all times, a Favorite in the prosecution of my places and offices; and yet (as I shall answer before the dreadfull Tribunall, whereunto your just anger hath before nature doomed me) my intents were fairer then my actions: But God knows, the overgreatnesse of my spirits severity, my government, the witchcraft of authority, and flattery of multitudes to sharpen it, are but ill interpreters of my intentions: which they you may believe, I have no argument, but Improtestation, which hath but this circumstance to confirm it, That it proceeds from a dying man.

If I should take upon me to make a relation of all the particulars of my arraignment and attainder, it would but too much prorogue your longing expectation of my shamefull death: Besides, it would be needlesse, in respect I should but say over again what I said before the Parliament, (and perhaps be as little believed, though the terms on which I then answered, be far different from my attestation now, that being before my condemnation, and this, after it) Besides, there were multitudes to catch it, as fast as I uttered it, (and doubtlesse you shall have it upon every stall-book-post,) for I have been, and whilst I breath, am, the pestilence which rages through your minds, your estates, and Trades; and you will be ready to read the bills of your own losses, though the disease that brought the destruction be removed.

Having nothing in this world by a little breath, which within a few minutes is to be expired, I should not use it to this purpose, but that custome upon these directions prescribes my warrant for it: and further, that I might be an example to great persons, that they may know, the favour of a great King is not equivalent to the breath of Nations; and that it is a thousand times better and more noble for a Lion to play with a glove, then tear it; nor is it proper for

a Dove to soar with Eagles wings; and the rather, because the necessity of the times requires that I should dye, onely for example.

He that gave conscience to you all, (that are willing to accept it) my Royall Master, did in his own conscience once declare me guiltless of these facts for which this death is come upon me: But heaven that hath made your generall clamours the organ of my destiny, thought me not worthy to enjoy this life I have abused; and from your voices, as from the lips of Oracles, I have received my wofull doom, wherein my charity (at this hour) cannot, nor will accuse you of the least injustice: but still I trench upon your patience, and linger in the thing you came to look for, my death.

A little, little more, and I have done. For a testimony of my Faith and Religion, be pleased to understand, that I have professed, and do (now) dye in the true Protestant Religion, not in any points deviating in my belief from the fundamentall grounds of the true Protestant Religion, professed, maintained, practised, and authorized by the Church of England. I would say more of this, but that I desire my private ejaculations may be my last meditations, onely, because I know there is not any one of you, at odds with my soul or person (though with facts and vices: I cannot doubt, but your humanity and charitable inclinations will afford me your devout prayers, for my Saviours sweet Mercy. Good people pray for me, pray for me, even for my Eternall Saviours sake, into whose bosom I render my wofull and afflicted soul: Sweet Jesu, my Redeemer, (the Redeemer even of me, a wofull and dejected sinner) receive into thy arms my spirit.

## William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury

Extracted from *A Collection of Ancient and Moderne Prophesies*

by William Lilly, London 1645.



Upon this Scheam of William Laud, sometime Archbishop of Canterbury, a man of known Eminency both in Court and Church: I mean not long to insist, but in some few Aphorisms deliver unto you his inclination, his preferment, and his finall and fatall period by and from the influences of the celestiall bodies:

*Deo permittente.*

### His Inclination.

*In universum itaque tropica signa inquit Ptolomeus, efficiunt ingenio rebus publicis magis addictos, quorum etiam negotia & forenses turbas ambiunt, gloriæ cupidos, rebus divinis continuo vacantes, ingeniosos, solertes, &c. lib. 3. cap. 18.*

Generally, tropicall signes by nature incline mens minds to publike affaires, which affaires, together with forraign and turbulent employment,

they earnestly and ambitiously seek after; are thirsty after Honour, much addicted to Religion, diligent, &c.

In this Scheam the Angles are the Tropical Signes, which sufficiently declare his inclinations. I intend not to descend to particulars, and therefore passe by the position of the Sun and Mercury in the Ascendant, of Jupiter in the Ninth, beholding the Ascendant with a perfect Trine; of Venus with Saturn in Scorpio, and the Moon in Pisces in Square with Jupiter: For all which, Judgement might be enlarged.

### **His Preferments.**

*Stellæ fixæ dant dona grandia, & ex paupertate sublevant ad sublimitatem eam quam non faciunt septem Planetæ.*

The fixed stars give great preferment, and raise men to a higher degree of Honour then do the seven Planets.

Jupiter in the Ninth, and having dominion in the third, being both Houses of Religion, in conjunction with oculus Tauri an eminent fixed Star, and in perfect Trine to the Ascendant.

Mercury in the Ascendant with Spica Virginis, another of the *Stellæ regiæ*, or princely Stars, who also hath dominion in the Ninth.

Syrius, or the eminent Dog Star of the nature of Jupiter and Mars, culminating with the Degree of the Middle heaven; all these *a radice*, even from his birth, promised him to those high Temporal and Ecclesiastical Dignities.

### **His fatal Period.**

*Mars, Soli vel Lunæ Quadrato vel Opposito radio configuratus in Signis humanis, Seditione, Bello, aut propria manu interficit.*

Mars in humane Signes, in Square or Opposition to the Sun or Moon, killeth either by Sedition, War, or Self-murder.

*Si vero Mercurius dominetur in Signo in quo Mars existit, a Latronibus interficietur, vel mandato Regis.*

But if Mercury have dominion or be Lord of the Signe wherein Mars is, he shall be slain by Theeves, or the hand of Authority.

*Dominus Horoscopi in Signo violento, vel a maleficis infestatus, & dispositor Luminaris conditionarii, similiter vel in Signo violento, vel afflictus a maleficis, θιαθάνατος<sup>1</sup> morietur,*

The Lord of the Horoscope in a violent signe, or infested by a malevolent Planet, and the disposer of the Luminary of the time also, either in a violent Signe, or afflicted by the malevolents, signifieth a violent death.

Mars here in this Scheam, according to these Aphorisms, is Lord of the eighth (the house of death) and in Virgo an humane Signe, the house of Mercury, and within the Orbs of the Opposition of the Moon, in partil Square to Venus Lady of the Horoscope in Signes of long ascensions; Venus is also in Scorpio, a violent Signe, afflicted by the presence of Saturn, and Jupiter Lord of the Signe of the Moon, the light of the time, afflicted by the Square of Mars; all of them sufficient arguments both of a violent death, and its nature. And for further satisfaction of the more curious, I have here set down the directions which, according to Art and secondary causes, have pointed out both the nature and time of his preferment, accidents, and period.

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<sup>1</sup> Dia Thanatos (more properly "Dia Thanatou"): by death.

Anno Dom.	Age	
1589	16	Medium-Cœli by direction came to a ☐ ♀ which sent him poor Scholar to Oxford.
1593	20	M.C. ad ☐ ⊗ made him fellow of S. Johns.
1595	22	M.C. ad Ant. ȝ & ⊗ ad ♂ ȝ, & Asc. ad ♀ , made him Batchelor.
1601	28	Sol ad ♂ ♀ made him a Priest.
1602	29	Asc. ad ♂ ⊗, Reader of a Divinity-Lecture.
1604	31	M.C. ad contra Ant. ḥ , brought him to discredit, and to the just aspersion of a seditious fellow.
1607	34	Asc. ad Ant. ȝ, gave him the Vicarage of Stamford.
1609	36	⊗ ad Δ ♀ , gave him a Benefice in Essex.
1611	38	Luna ad * ȝ, made him President of S.Johns.
1614	41	M.C. ad ☐ ♀, made him Prebend of Bugden, and gave him the Archdeaconry of Gloucester.
1616	43	Asc. ad Δ ȝ, gave him the Deanry of Gloucester, and sent him with the King into Scotland.
1619	46	Sol ad ♂ ḥ, made him dead for a time at Wickam.
1620	47	M.C. ad * ♀ , made him Prebend of Westminster.
1625	52	M.C. ad ☐ ḥ,gave him the fall whereby he hurt his left shoulder and huckle-bone.
1628	55	Sol ad ☐ ȝ, & ad ♂ ȝ, gave him that sicknesse and rupture at Hampton Court.
1630	57	Asc. ad ♂ ♀ , made him Chancellor of Oxford.

1633	60	M.C. ad ☽ ♁, made him Archbishop of Canterbury. M.C. ad ♂ ♀, produced that fatal Omen to him, whereby his servants, his coach and Horses narrowly escaped drowning in the Lambeth Ferry-Boat.
1638	65	Sol ad ☽ ♂, Eclipsed his reputation amongst the people, and stirred up both the Libellers here, and also the Scots, to oppose his designes.
1640	67	Luna ad Contra Antiscium proprium, he was accused of Treason, and fined 500 pounds. M.C. ad ♂ ♂, & Contra Ant. ♀, deprived him of his Honours and Liberty, and sent him to the Tower.
1644	71	Asc. ad ♂ ♀ cum latitudine, killed him.

